(e) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRTY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) Government of India has emphasised in its various communications to the State Governments the need for reforms/ restructuring of the State Power Sector. Some States have initiated efforts for reforms in the power sector in their States but no response has been recieved from Government of Maharashtra in this regard.

(d) and (e) The Government of India is assisting the State in this regard through arranging for multilateral/bilateral assistance for diagnostic studies required for reforms and restructuring. Government of India have also organised several workshops/training programmes for State Governments/State Electricity Board officials to acquaint them of the various options available for restructuring and reforming the electricity sector and upgrade their skills in this regard.

Requests for Extension in Service

1461. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are overburdened with requests for extension to high officials who are due to retire;

(b) if so. what is the total number of such officials who arc due to retire and are seeking extension of service; and

(e) whether all such reqests have been rejected'.'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERONNEL, PUBLIC GR1EANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.K. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) The total number of Secretary and equivalent level officers who are due to retire during December, 1996 to March, 1997 are 11 None of these officials has made any request seeking extension of service.

(c) Does not arise.

Living and Non-Living Resources in the Sea

1462 SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for exploration and exploitation of living and non-living resources in the sea during the 8th Five Year Plan;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to continue sustainable explotation of these resources during the 9th Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the fund provisioins made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGENDRA K. ALAGH): (a) The steps taken by the Government for exploration and exploitation of the marine living and non-living resources during the 8th Five Year Plan, include;

Living Resources:

(i) Assessment of the potential for living resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), for pelagic, demersal and deep sea fishery resources.

(ii) Implementation of programmes for:

—diversified survey and experimental fishing;

— development and exploitation of coastal marine fisheries through motorisation of traditional fishing craft, introduction of plywood craft, intermediate craft, enforcement of

Murine Fishing Regulation act;

— development of deep sea fishing in the EEZ by encouraging joint venture;

— Introduction of artificial reefs and mariculture for resource enhancement, etc.

INon-Livlng Resources:

(i) Exploration of polymetallic nodules in the pioneer area alloted to India in the Central Indian Ocean Basin;

(ii) Exploration of sea bed mineral resources in the India's EEZ;

(iii) Implementation of Research & Development programmes for development of viable technologies for exploration and exploitation of polymetallic nodules; etc.

(b) to (d) The proposals for exploitation of the marine living and non-living resources arc in the formulation stage in the MinistrievDepartments concerned with the exploitation of these resources and arc yet to be approved by the Planning Commission.

Cities under Prime Minister' integrated Urban poverty eradication Programme

1463. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme is Centrally sponsored;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to include the newly developed urban cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U VENKATESWARLU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradiction Programme (PMI UPEP) launched in November, 1995 is a Centrally Sponosred Scheme.

(b) The PMIUPEP is applicable to all urban agglomerations with population between 50,000 to 100,000 as per the 1991 Census and subject to the condition that election to Urban Local Bodies have been held. Considering the peculiar problems of North-Eastern/Hilly States, the programme has also been extended to 72 districts from these States. The Programme has been approved for a period of 5 years (1995-96 to 1999-2000). A details note on the scheme is annexed. *(see* below)

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration at present, consisting of atleast 100 families.

Statement

PRIME MINISTER'S INTEGRATED URBAN POVERTY ERADICATION PROGRAMME (PMI UPEP)

Recognising the seriousness and complexity of urban poverty problems, especially in the small towns where the situation is more grave due to lack of resources for planning their environment and development, the PMIUPEP has been launched in November, 1995.

OBJECTIVES:

The general objective of PMI UPEP is to attack the several root causes of urban poverty simultaneously in an integrated manner so as to eradicate poverty from the targetted urban areas by the turn of the century. The specific objectives of the Programme are (i) Effective achievement of social sector goals; (ii) community empowerment; (iii) Convergence through sustainable support systems; (iv) employment generation and skill upgradation; (v) Environmental Improvement; and (vi) Shelter Upgradation.

COVERAGE:

The Programme is applicable to all Class II urban agglomerations with a population ranging between 50,000 and 1 lakh subject to the condition that elections to local bodies have been held.